

REMARKS

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for noting the potential problems under 35 USC § 112. It is believed that those problems have been addressed by the claim amendments.

The Examiner's comments regarding the renumbering of the claims is also noted. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for renumbering misnumbered claim 3 as claim 5.

The Examiner next objects to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because Figure 1 cannot show both the circular and the elliptical embodiments. Accompanying this response is a drawing Submission which enters new Figure 3. As the subject matter of Figure 3 is substantially identical to Figure 1, it is respectfully submitted that new matter is being entered by the same. In addition, the specification is revised to indicate that Figure 1 shows generally circular passages while Figure 3 shows generally elliptical passages. In view of the above amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the raised drawing objection is traversed.

The Examiner has raised an objection under 35 USC § 112 to independent claims 1 and 5, together with all affected dependent claims. The basis of the objection is that it is not immediately apparent to the Examiner as to how "a planar surface" will "preclude attachment of an object". The Applicant has endeavored to address this objection by adding specific wording to the claims. A planar surface precludes attachment of an object when it is devoid of any appendage.

In addressing the objections raised under 35 USC § 112, it

is believed that the Applicant has also substantially addressed the objection under 35 USC § 102 relating to anticipation by Wills. The Applicant would also like to draw to the Examiner's attention the fact that in Wills, all of the passages do not have a substantially uniform transverse cross-sectional area along their length. In Figure 6, the cross-sectional areas of the passage adjacent sidewall 15 and the passage adjacent the opposed sidewall do not have a substantially uniform transverse cross-sectional area, along their length, of the same dimensions as the cross-sectional area of the remainder of the passages.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 6 and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and included all of the limitations of the base claim and an intervening claim(s). In accordance with this indication, claim 6 is appropriately revised, to be an independent claim, and amended claim 6 is now believed to be allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims, as presently amended, distinguish over the Wills reference. If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for noting the objections to the drawings and the need to complete the claim for priority status based upon the prior Canadian filing. The drawings will be replaced with new formal drawings as soon as a



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Notice of Allowance issues. As for the certified copy, the Applicant notes that a certified copy of the priority application was filed in this case on January 27, 1994. The Patent Office is requested to please acknowledge receipt of the same in due course.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for making the prior art of record in this application. These references have been reviewed by the Applicant and appear to be no more relevant than the applied art and thus further comment relating thereto is not submitted.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted

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